

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health

J. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H. (Lond.)

for the year

1972

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ROCK GROUNDS,

ABERDARE, Glam.



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Public Health Department,
Rock Grounds,
Aberdare.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Aberdare.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the privilege to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Public Health of the District for the year 1972, together with the following comments:

During the year, as indeed was the case in most preceeding years, the department - the Housing Section in particular - dealt with multifarious problems in the field of housing. Applicants for Council housing, presented difficult problems, most of which, I am pleased to say, were dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

The problem which highlighted the many difficult tasks presented, was that caused by the unfortunate Miners' Strike at the beginning of the year, when serious repercussions might have occurred due to the lack of solid fuel supplies, particularly at the new Rose Row Housing Site. The dwellings at the site are centrally heated by solid fuel from a central boiler house, and due mainly to the action of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor and his staff it was possible to maintain a modicum of heat to the dwellings for the duration of the strike.

At the same time it was necessary to provide a supplementary form of heat for those people on the site who were elderly or infirm or who had young children and could not afford to purchase alternative forms of heating. There followed a period of intensive consultation between my department, the Divisional Health Office, the Social Services Department of the Glamorgan County Council and the Department of Health and Social Security, together with various voluntary bodies, such as the Rotary Club, Aberdare. It was ascertained, by my staff, that there was a considerable number of people in the categories mentioned above, who did not possess electric fires and did not have the means with which to provide them. As a result, the Rotary Club purchased fifteen electric fires for distribution, as a temporary measure, to those in need, and helped my staff to deliver fires to people at Rose Row. Other electric fires were obtained from various Council offices and these too were distributed to tenants on the site.

With the cooperation of representatives of the Miners' Union, a scheme was worked out, between the Aberdare and Mountain Ash Councils and the Social Services Department of the Glamorgan County Council, to ensure that a ration of coal was supplied to priority groups such as the sick and elderly. The scheme worked well and helped to maintain a reasonable standard of heating in the homes of the most needy, and I would like to record my thanks to all those people who helped in achieving this aim at that most difficult time.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks for the help I have received from Mr. D.G. James, the Clerk of the Council, and the Council's Chief Officers, the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.F. Jones, the Public Health Inspectors, to the Housing Assistant, Mr. D.N. Reynolds, the Welfare Assistant, Mr. J. Connelly, and to my Chief Clerk, Mrs. Beryl Hardwicke, and the Clerical Staff, for their loyal support and assistance to me during the year under review.

J. Llewellyn Williams,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

J. Llewellyn Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Lond.)

Chief Public Health Inspector

J.F. Jones, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors

E.P. Evans, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
M.J. Kedward, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

T.J. Jones, M.A.P.H.I.
P.S. Lewis, M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspectors

B.D. Kember

J.R. Smith

Housing Assistant

D.N. Reynolds, D.M.A.

Trainee Assistant

D.E. Adams

Welfare Assistant

J. Connelly

Clerical Staff

Chief Clerk: Mrs. B. Hardwicke
Second Clerk: M. Burford

Shorthand Mrs. B. Cowdry
Typists: Miss P.A. Fussell

Rodent Control Operators

W. Bradford
E. Griffiths (to 21st September, 1972)
M. Richards (from 7th August, 1972)

Van Driver/Disinfectors

D.G. Mapp

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Date of meetings: Third Tuesday in each month at 6.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs. S. Morgan

Councillor (Mrs.) G. Jenkins

Councillor C.J. Morgan

(Mrs.) P.M. Jones

R.G. Jones, LL.B., B.Sc. (Econ.)

W.E. Parfitt

J. O'Connell

T. Jones

D.W. Rees

W.S. Jones

M.J. Vaughan

(Mrs.) L.G. Lynch

K.A. Rees

(Mrs.) S. Morgan

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Councillors

E.D. Jenkins

(Mrs.) P. Williams

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT
1962 - 1972

YEAR	POPULATION	BIRTHS		DEATHS	
		NUMBER	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION (CRUDE)	NUMBER	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION (ADJUSTED)
1962	39,030	605	15.9	605	15.04
1963	39,000	605	15.7	661	17.6
1964	38,910	615	15.8	569	15.2
1965	38,900	663	17.04	597	15.5
1966	38,700	606	15.66	582	15.34
1967	38,450	608	15.8	560	14.8
1968	38,560	679	17.1	586	15.2
1969	38,210	650	17.0	661	17.5
1970	38,250	652	17.0	575	15.2
1971	37,780	625	16.5	541	14.4
1972	37,760	585	15.5	562	14.0

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

ABERDARE URBAN DISTRICT

GLAMORGAN
ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNTY

Live Births

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
285	247	24	29	585

11,439

Livebirths per 1,000 population
(crude rate)

15.5

15.2

Local adjusted rate

16.7

15.7

Illegitimate livebirths 9% of all
livebirths

Stillbirths:

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
4	2	-	1	7

162

Rate per 1,000 total live and
stillbirths

12.0

14.0

Total births: Number live and still 592

11,601

ABERDARE URBAN DISTRICT

GLAMORGAN
ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNTY

Total Deaths - All Ages

Males 297 Females 265 Total 562

9,346

Death rate per 1,000 population (crude) 14.9

Local adjusted rate 14.0

13.5

Infant (Deaths under one year)

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
7	5	-	2	14

183

Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births 24

16

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000
legitimate live births 23Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000
illegitimate live births 38

Neonatal (Death under four weeks)

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
5	2	-	2	9

Rate per 1,000 total live births 15

Early Neonatal (Deaths under one week)

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
5	2	-	2	9

Rate per 1,000 total live births 15

Perinatal (Stillbirths and deaths under one week)

Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
9	4	-	3	16

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 27

271

23

Maternal Mortality - Number of Deaths NIL

INFANT DEATHS

The Table below gives the vital statistics relating to infant deaths for 1972 and for the previous 10 years:-

YEAR	INFANT MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under one year per 1,000 Total Live Births)		NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)		PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	
	ENGLAND AND WALES	ABERDARE	ENGLAND AND WALES	ABERDARE	ENGLAND AND WALES	ABERDARE
1962	21.4	36.36		23.14	30.8	38.7
1963	20.9	31.40		21.49	29.3	29.4
1964	20.0	27.64		16.26	28.2	30.4
1965	19.0	28.65		19.61	26.9	31.2
1966	19.0	24.75		18.15	26.3	41.8
1967	18.3	26.31	12.5	19.73	25.4	28.0
1968	18.0	27.9		22.1	25.0	28.0
1969	18.0	20.0	12.0	15.0	23.0	32.0
1970	18.0	23.0	12.0	18.0	23.0	29.0
1971	18.0	21.0	12.0	13.0	22.0	24.0
1972	17.0	24.0	12.0	15.0	22.0	27.0

INFANT MORTALITY - 1972

SEX	AGE AT DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH
Male	10 minutes	Prematurity
Male	15 minutes	Prematurity
Male	20 minutes	Prematurity
Female	45 minutes	Prematurity
Male	2 hours	Prematurity and respiratory distress
Male	3 hours	Prematurity and asphyxia
Female	1 day	Respiratory distress
Female	2 days	Prematurity and respiratory distress
Female	3 days	Prematurity and respiratory distress
Female	3 months	Acute circulatory failure and broncho-pneumonia
Male	3 months	Meningococcal infection
Female	4 months	Acute respiratory infection
Female	6 months	Asphyxia due to aspiration of ingested matter
Male	11 months	Adrenal haemorrhage

VITAL STATISTICS

The table below gives comparative figures for rates relating to vital statistics during 1972.

	<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> Rate per 1,000 Popula- tion. (Crude)	<u>DEATHS</u> Rate per 1,000 Popula- tion. (Crude)	<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u> Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY</u> Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births.	<u>STILL BIRTHS</u> Rate per 1,000 Total Births
ABERDARE	15.5	14.9	24	27	12
ENGLAND AND WALES	14.8	12.1	17	22	12
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY	15.2	12.4	16	23	14
MOUNTAIN ASH URBAN	16.4	13.3	20	24	15
CAERPHILLY URBAN	19.3	9.8	16	17	9
PONTYPRIDD URBAN	15.0	14.7	16	29	15
BRIDGEND URBAN	14.9	13.1	33	23	9
MAESTEG URBAN	17.1	12.8	14	30	22
BARRY M.B.	14.9	12.0	21	31	16
NEATH M.B.	12.5	15.6	17	23	11
RHONDDA M.B.	14.1	14.6	16	31	22

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	-	2
Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	-	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	10	4	14
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	8	7	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	21	-	21
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	10	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	9	13	22
Diabetes Mellitus	1	6	7
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	1	2
Anaemias	-	3	3
Mental Disorders	-	1	1
Meningitis	1	-	1
Multiple Sclerosis	-	2	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	3	5
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	4	5
Hypertensive Disease	6	7	13
Ischaemic Heart Disease	93	53	146
Other Forms of Heart Disease	21	27	48
Cerebrovascular Disease	33	53	86

	Male	Female	Total
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	10	7	17
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	11	15	26
Bronchitis and Emphysema	28	8	36
Asthma	-	4	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	7	3	10
Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	4	-	4
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	3	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	4	6
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	2	1	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	3	5
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	1	3
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	2	2	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	3	6	9
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	-	3
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	297	265	562

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis during 1972)

Disease	Total Cases	
Measles	45 Male	29 Female
Infective Hepatitis	3 "	3 "
Scarlet Fever	2 "	7 "
Dysentery	-	2 "
Food Poisoning	5 "	6 "

FOOD POISONING

Food poisoning incidents are divided into three categories.

1. General Outbreaks: Two or more cases in different families due to a common cause.
2. Family Outbreaks: Two or more related cases in the same household.
3. Sporadic Cases: Single cases which are isolated occurrences.

Incidents are reported to the Welsh Office as they occur, and the Annual Return of Food Poisoning for this district for the year ended 31st December, 1972, contained the following information:-

GENERAL OUTBREAKS		FAMILY OUTBREAKS		SPORADIC CASES	TOTAL NO. OF CASES
No. of Separate Outbreaks	No. of Cases Notified and Ascertained	No. of Separate Outbreaks	No. of Cases Notified and Ascertained	No. of Cases Notified	Notified and ascertained
-	-	3	8	3	11

Outbreak No. 1

My Annual Report of 1971 contained details of an outbreak of food poisoning, which occurred in the Premature Baby Unit of a hospital outside the Aberdare Urban District. One of the babies affected was discharged back to the Aberdare area and early in 1972 *Salmonella* Reading was isolated for a faecal specimen from the mother of the child. It is considered that she probably caught the infection from the baby.

Outbreak No. 2

The three members of this family, who were visited immediately notification was received, had all suffered from diarrhoea and vomiting. No faecal swabs were taken, as at the time of the investigation all had fully recovered.

Outbreak No. 3

The notification by Maerdy Isolation Hospital of the admission of a child suffering from gastro enteritis, initiated the commencement of enquiries by my department. Faecal swabs submitted by family contacts, who were also suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting, were positive for Salmonella (Agona). This information was passed to the hospital where by this time a diagnosis of Salmonella had been made in respect of the child patient. It was not possible to establish the source of the infection with any degree of certainty, but it would seem likely that it could have been a frozen chicken which might not have been properly prepared. The liaison between the hospital, the general practitioner who treated the family contacts, and this department was excellent, and the promptness of the original notification by the hospital was most helpful.

Sporadic Cases

The only sporadic case in which it was possible to identify the causative agent - in this case Salmonella Panama - was a food handler. He was not allowed to return to work until three negative swabs were obtained. Faecal swabs from family contacts were all negative.

TUBERCULOSIS

The County Medical Officer in his Glamorgan Newsletter of December 1972, writes:-

"The substantial reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis since World War II should not lull any doctor into the belief that tuberculosis has become a rare disease. True, in 1948, there were 454 deaths in

the County attributable to all forms of tuberculosis and in 1971 this was reduced to 37 deaths. It is also satisfying to note that the number of notifications (all forms) has fallen from 1,144 in 1948 to 158 in 1971. But the disease is far from being conquered and the number of notifications for 1969, 1970 and 1971 were higher than that for 1968.

In 1971, the number of notifications was exceeded only by measles (2,603) infective jaundice (441) and whooping cough (201). The number of deaths from tuberculosis (37) exceeds the total number of deaths from other infectious diseases (29). (Enteritis 6, Meningococcal infection 5, Whooping Cough 3, other infective and parasitic diseases 15).

The number of notifications, all forms, of Tuberculosis in Glamorgan and neighbouring authorities for the years 1968 - 71 clearly shows that it is wrong to regard tuberculosis as an uncommon disease. As the incidence of infection declines so it becomes increasingly difficult to find the foci of infection from which new cases can arise.

Number of Notifications of all Forms of Tuberculosis 1968 - 71

County and County Boroughs	Actual Number				Rate per 1,000 Population			
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1968	1969	1970	1971
GLAMORGAN	144	159	177	158	19	21	24	21
CARDIFF	99	83	87	86	34	29	31	31
NEWPORT	13	24	27	28	12	21	24	25
SWANSEA	50	57	30	36	29	33	18	21
CARMARTHENSHIRE	41	32	37	35	25	20	23	21
BRECONSHIRE	12	13	9	11	22	24	16	21
MONMOUTHSHIRE	79	64	54	48	23	18	15	14
ALL WALES	626	606	621	569	23	22	23	21

The figures for the first three quarters of the year 1972 show an improvement but it is too early to predict how substantial this will be.

There are many factors which have brought about a decline in the incidence of tuberculosis, viz., a safe milk supply, follow up of medical examination of persons in contact with infectious patients; mass X-ray examination, use of antibiotics in treatment, B.C.G. vaccination, serial tuberculin testing, but above all a high standard of living which increases resistance against the development of active disease if infection takes. As the number of deaths and notifications decline, so different methods are required to combat the disease, otherwise a state of stagnation will be reached with a hard core of infection and chronic disease which can be of great danger to future generations.

Mass miniature radiography is satisfactory for identifying T.B. cases where the incidence of the disease is high but is wasteful where the number of infected cases is small. In 1944, the yield of new active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in Wales discovered by mass radiography was 60 per 10,000 persons but this yield has decreased over the years until it had fallen to 2 per 10,000 persons by 1968. In 1968, 573 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered in Wales by all methods of detection but only 22 were discovered by mobile units. Since 1971 the Mobile Mass Radiography Service in Wales was discontinued but is available in special circumstances for the X-ray of closed communities such as boarding schools, old peoples homes and prisons.

In 1971, 14.6% of Glamorgan 13 year old children gave a positive response to tuberculin before B.C.G. vaccination. The percentage ranged from 5.3% and 5.9% respectively in the Caerphilly and Gelli-gaer and West Glamorgan Health Divisions to 21.9% and 27.2% respectively in the Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg and Pontypridd and Llantrisant Divisions. In all probability the proportion of children who give a positive response to tuberculin in the last two divisions over estimates the position because the figures may include some children previously vaccinated in early life and the inclusion of low grade reactions. It is difficult to obtain precise information but undoubtedly the risk of infection has fallen since the national survey of 1949/50 showed four in ten children to be tuberculin positive.

B.C.G. vaccination is a useful preventive measure but has its disadvantages: the immunity conferred is partial and temporary: if B.C.G. is given to infants, it rules out the use of tuberculin as a diagnostic and case finding agent; and it can produce through over confidence, relaxation of essential preventive measures. The disadvantage becomes more apparent where the risk of exposure is low. Since risk of infection increases during adolescence, it is offered to all tuberculin negative 13 year olds.

Where B.C.G. vaccination is reserved for contacts and school children over 12, it is possible to introduce serial tuberculin testing for infant and junior school children. This has been undertaken in the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Division for about a decade. Any positive reactor is regarded as an index case and a search for the infectious contact is made. But serial skin testing involves a great deal of labour and organisation and will lose much of its value as a preventive measure if adults who come into contact with children are not X-rayed every three years or so.

Professor Heaf in his article "Prevention of Tuberculosis" B.M.J. 15.12.1956 advocates that the chest X-ray should be the normal procedure in a medical examination and that if any person with chest symptoms seeks medical advice and a chest X-ray film is not taken, then that person should instinctively feel that the examination has been incomplete. He also added that although there is a danger in placing too much reliance on radiography at the expense of ordinary clinical history-taking and physical examination, both medical students and qualified practitioners should be told much more frequently that a chest X-ray film should be obtained at some time in all cases attending out-patient clinics, especially those with chest symptoms, however slight.

The hard core of tuberculosis infection in the County lies in middle-aged males, particularly those who have diseased lungs from working in the mines or quarries. The late middle-aged man is at special risk and if he consults his doctor for a chest complaint an X-ray and a sputum examination is advised to make sure that no pathological chest condition is being overlooked. The following table of notifications for the first three quarters of 1972 shows the age distribution:-

Glamorgan

T.B. Notifications - January to September 1972

AGE GROUPS	TUBERCULOSIS MARCH, JUNE AND SEPTEMBER QUARTERS 1972					
	RESPIRATORY		MENINGES AND CNS		OTHER	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	5	-	-	-	-
5 -14 years	2	2	-	-	-	-
15-24 years	9	2	-	-	-	-
25-44 years	11	4	-	-	1	4
45-64 years	34	1	-	-	-	4
65-74 years	13	1	-	-	-	-
75 and over	4	-	-	-	1	1
Age unknown	2	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	75	15	-	-	3	9

Both for the individual patient and for the control of infection, early diagnosis and prompt initiation of effective chemotherapy are of the greatest importance. Prompt diagnosis of patients with symptoms seems to be the most important single measure for effective control.

Sources: Prevention of Tuberculosis - Professor Heaf. B.M.J.15.12.56
 Tuberculosis - Epidemiology in England and Wales -
 V.H. Springett, Birmingham. B.M.J.12.2.72"

The situation in respect of the Aberdare district is tabled overleaf:-

TUBERCULOSIS

	NEW CASES NOTIFIED			DEATHS		
	RESPIRATORY	OTHER FORMS	TOTAL	RESPIRATORY	OTHER FORMS	TOTAL
1953	104	8	112	13	1	14
1954	74	10	84	9	5	14
1955	49	12	61	8	1	9
1956	25	5	30	6	1	7
1957	31	4	35	3	-	3
1958	28	4	32	9	-	9
1959	21	1	22	5	-	5
1960	17	7	24	5	-	5
1961	28	5	33	2	1	3
1962	28	3	31	6	1	7
1963	26	1	27	8	-	8
1964	18	2	20	3	1	4
1965	13	2	15	2	1	3
1966	13	-	13	2	-	2
1967	11	2	13	2	-	2
1968	8	1	9	1	-	1
1969	9	-	9	3	-	3
1970	3	1	4	2	-	2
1971	4	1	5	1	-	1
1972	3	1	4	3	-	3

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1972

	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS					
	RESPIRA- TORY		NON-RES- PIRATORY		TOTAL	RESPIRA- TORY		NON-RES- PIRATORY		TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	-	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	2
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	1	-	1	4	2	1	-	-	3

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the water supply of the Urban Area is supplied by the Taf Fechan Water Board and is derived from seven sources, six of which lie within the Urban Area.

RESERVOIR	CAPACITY IN GALLONS	AREA SUPPLIED
NANTHIR (Situated on mountainside above Llwedcoed.)	40,000,000	Llwydcoed, Abernant, Maesyffynon, Godreaman (part), Cwmbach (part).
NANTMOEL (Situated on mountainside above Llwedcoed.)	67,000,000	Trecynon, Trefelin, Robertstown, Abercwmboi, Aberaman (part).
BWLLFA (Graig Storage Ponds) (Situated in the Bwllfa/Cwmdare village.)	7,000,000	Foundrytown, Daviestown, Town Centre, Plasdraw, Gadlys (part).
NANTAMANFACH (Situated in the hollow of Hafod Wen mountain Cwmaman.)	60,000	
PWLLFA (Situated at Ffyrnant, Cwmaman, Catchment area reinforced by pumping from old Bedlwyn Level.)	160,000	Aberaman (part), Godreaman (part), Glynhafod, Woodland Terrace to Glynhafod Street.
TAF FECHAN WATER BOARD		
Upper Neuadd	340,000,000	Hirwaun, Penywaun.
Lower Neuadd	74,000,000	Cwmdare, Trecynon
Taf Fechan	3,400,000,000	(part).

With the exception of a few scattered houses and farmhouses, on the borders, all houses and premises in the urban area are on mains supply.

Responsibility for bacteriological and chemical control rests with the Taf Fechan Water Board who furnish this department with results of their tests.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER BY TAF FECHAN WATER BOARD 1972

	Samples Taken	Treated Water Unsatisfactory
JANUARY	41	-
FEBRUARY	48	2
MARCH	48	4
APRIL	48	-
MAY	48	-
JUNE	50	1
JULY	50	4
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER	94	15
OCTOBER	49	1
NOVEMBER	47	3
DECEMBER	36	-
TOTALS	559	30

All unsatisfactory samples are immediately investigated by the Taf Fechan Water Board and all results notified to this department.

Swimming Baths and Paddling Pool

There are three swimming baths and one paddling pool situated in the district:

Swimming Baths and Paddling Pool situated at Aberdare Park;

Swimming Baths situated at Rock Grounds, Aberdare;

Swimming Baths situated at Michael's Field, Aberaman.

Frequency of Water Turnover:- 10 hourly.

Method of Treatment:- Sulphate of Alumina and Soda.

Baths	Source of Filling			Sterilisation		
ABERAMAN	Nantmoel Supply			Sodium Hypochlorinator		
ROCK	Bwllfa/Graig Supply			Chlorine Gas		
PARK	Bwllfa/Graig Supply			Sodium Hypochlorinator		
Source of Supply	Bacteriological Tests			Chemical Tests		
	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
ROCK BATHS						
Deep End	10	10	-	10	10	-
Shallow End	10	10	-	10	10	-
PARK BATHS						
Deep End	7	6	1	7	7	-
Shallow End	7	7	-	7	7	-
ABERAMAN BATHS						
Deep End	6	6	-	6	6	-
Shallow End	6	5	1	6	6	-
PARK PADDLING POOL						
Cascade	8	7	1	8	7	1
Centre	8	6	2	8	7	1

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

RIVERS

The state of the River Cynon and its main tributaries continues on the whole to be satisfactory - even though precarious. In its upper reaches the river is well stocked with fish, and trout up to 2 lb. in weight have been caught as far down as the Phurnacite Plant.

The river received a considerable degree of protection from Trade Effluent agreements that the Council have made with the various factories that border the river. As yet, no agreement regarding Trade Effluent has been reached with the Phurnacite Plant for, although the Biological Treatment Plant has been constructed, a considerable amount of research work and testing remains to be done before the effluent (which the Plant is designed to treat and which now percolates from the lagoons into the river) can be safely accepted into the Council's sewerage system and treated at the new Sewage Works at Abercynon. The protection which the river receives will be even further strengthened when the Authority's internal sewerage system is brought up to modern standards - a considerable task - but one which is in train.

Various incidents of pollution occurred during the year in connection with the Tower Washery Hirwaun, tip removal works in Cwmaman, the Gadlys Pit, certain factories in Cwmbach and the development of the Dare Valley Country Park. None of these were of major or permanent consequence to the river, and whilst some had to be dealt with in collaboration with the River Authority, others had to be accepted as a temporary but inescapable consequence of the various operations in progress designed to remove from the Valley the scars of the past uncontrolled industrial era.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND THE PHURNACITE PLANT

Two meetings of the Cynon Valley Anti Pollution Association took place during the year - on April 14th and September 11th - to discuss progress at the Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi. These meetings were attended by members of the Association, the District Alkali Inspector together with representatives of the National Coal Board and the Aberdare and Mountain Ash Urban District Councils. To each meeting, the N.C.B. submitted a progress report on the atmospheric pollution measures being installed by the Board at the Phurnacite Plant, and the position in September 1972 can best be summarised by quoting from the actual report submitted by the Board to the meeting that took place on the 11th of that month.

"John Zink Burners

"At end-March the burners on Nos. 6 and 7 batteries were fully operational, and installation was proceeding on No. 5 battery. The work was finished by end-April, and all burners on Nos. 5, 6 and 7 batteries have been used as a matter of routine during the past four months. This item is complete, and will be omitted from future reports.

The burners have been ordered for Nos. 1, 2 and 4 batteries. It is still expected that all batteries will be fully equipped with operating John Zink burners by the end of March 1973.

Dust Suppression from the Pugs

The first report stated the the efficiency of the wet scrubbers on the pugs was to be determined. It has been found necessary to develop an apparatus for accurate measurement of the scrubber efficiency and this has caused delay in the complete evaluation of the scrubbers. The initial tests indicate that most of the time the scrubbers are suppressing at least 95% of the emission, and that they may be suppressing as much as 99%. There are, however, occasional short periods when the emission rate is higher. Current work is directed towards elimination of these periods of higher emission and towards a rate of at least 97%.

Automatic Voltage Control on Precipitators

The units on No. 2 plant were installed and working by end-April as planned. There has been some delay in delivery of the equipment for No. 1 Plant, and the expected completion date has moved from end-June 1972 to September 1972.

"Dust Collection Scheme" for Trommel House

A new, automatically-rapped, dust collector was scheduled to be installed in the No. 1 plant trommel house during the period under review. This has been done, and the unit is working satisfactorily.

"Smokeless Charging"

All the above items were mentioned in the first progress report. During the period now under review work has commenced in an effort to reduce the dust which arises during charging on the older batteries. Modifications designed to give cleaner charging were built into Batteries Nos. 6 and 7 during construction, and the operating experience on these batteries has proved that the charging operation can be almost pollution free. The necessary mechanical modifications have been completed on Nos. 3, 4 and 5 batteries, and are now being made to No. 1 battery, but ancillary equipment may also have to be altered on No. 6 and No. 7 batteries. Measurements are being made to determine whether a modified operating procedure will help to reduce pollution."

By the end of the year, the situation was as follows:-

Green Ovoid Dust on Conveyors

The success so far achieved in other anti-pollution measures at the Plant had inevitably highlighted other sources of pollution, in particular, the dust rising from the green ovoids dropping from one conveyor to another when being carried from the briquetting plants to the battery tops. Various measures had been tried with limited success, and it was thought that the problem would be overcome during the year by some form of spraying which should not in turn create further problems.

Spruce method of Quenching

This is the method of quenching designed to prevent the emission of steam from the quench cars. The trial unit which is being installed to work in conjunction with the new No. 2 battery (at a cost of £250.000) is scheduled to start towards the end of April 1973.

Dust Suppression from the Pugs

It is noted that the work directed towards the elimination of infrequent short periods of high emission had, following further experimentation, modification and evaluation finally achieved success within the last few weeks, in that over 99% of the dust leaving the pug is being caught by the wet scrubber, and the dust emission is well under 1 lb. per hour (the dust so removed is disposed of into the lagoon and then taken into the process again). Modification of the other scrubbers is being undertaken and will take a few months to complete.

Automatic Voltage Control on Precipitators

Since the installation of this equipment has been completed, no further mention will be made in future reports. It was noted, however, that contractors would be returning within a few months to refurbish the precipitators at a cost of £50,000. This, however, is a matter of normal maintenance within the Phurnacite Plant.

Dust Collection Scheme for Trommel House

This is now a matter for internal consideration at the Phurnacite Plant; but it was noted that the further difficulties created by steam rising from the warmed briquettes condensing to water in cold weather and clogging the filter banks, making the unit very inefficient, had not yet been solved, but that the Board would, if necessary, seek alternative equipment from another supplier at the first supplier's cost.

Smokeless Charging

It was noted that the measures so far adopted had proved 50% successful, but that this was not considered good enough and work was still proceeding to improve the position. Because of the considerable design work required before engineering work could start, it was thought unlikely that the task would be completed until some time in 1974."

MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

From my 1971 Annual Report, it will be recalled that under the direction of Professor Lawther, Director, M.R.C. Air Pollution Unit, a survey was to be undertaken in an attempt to establish any possible connection between the level of atmospheric pollution in the valley, and the incidence of respiratory diseases among the local population, especially children. The project commenced on 1st October 1971 and involved:-

- 1). daily recording of weather condition;
- 2). daily measurement of sulphur dioxide and smoke at three sites - Gadlys Secondary Modern School, Mountain Ash Comprehensive School and Mountain Ash Town Hall;
- 3). daily respiratory function tests on two separate but similar groups of children at the Gadlys Secondary Modern School, Aberdare, and the Comprehensive School, Mountain Ash; and
- 4). a diary survey of patients with established respiratory disease and nominated by local General Practitioners.

Every effort was made to ensure that each item set out in Professor Lawther's programme was followed, though during the early part of the year progress and continuity were somewhat hampered by the Miners' Strike, the subsequent school closures and various electricity cuts.

Two teams of children (12 boys and 12 girls in each case), were selected from Gadlys Secondary School and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School. Daily respiratory function tests were carried out on these children who, before the commencement of the Peak Flow readings, had been medically examined and their heights and weights recorded. These tests were carried out until the 33rd week of the project when they were discontinued due to the pending school examinations.

Local general practitioners distributed diaries to selected persons who were asked to record their feelings of physical condition each day. Eight day volumetric apparatus were sited at the two schools involved and at the Town Hall, Mountain Ash and the weather readings

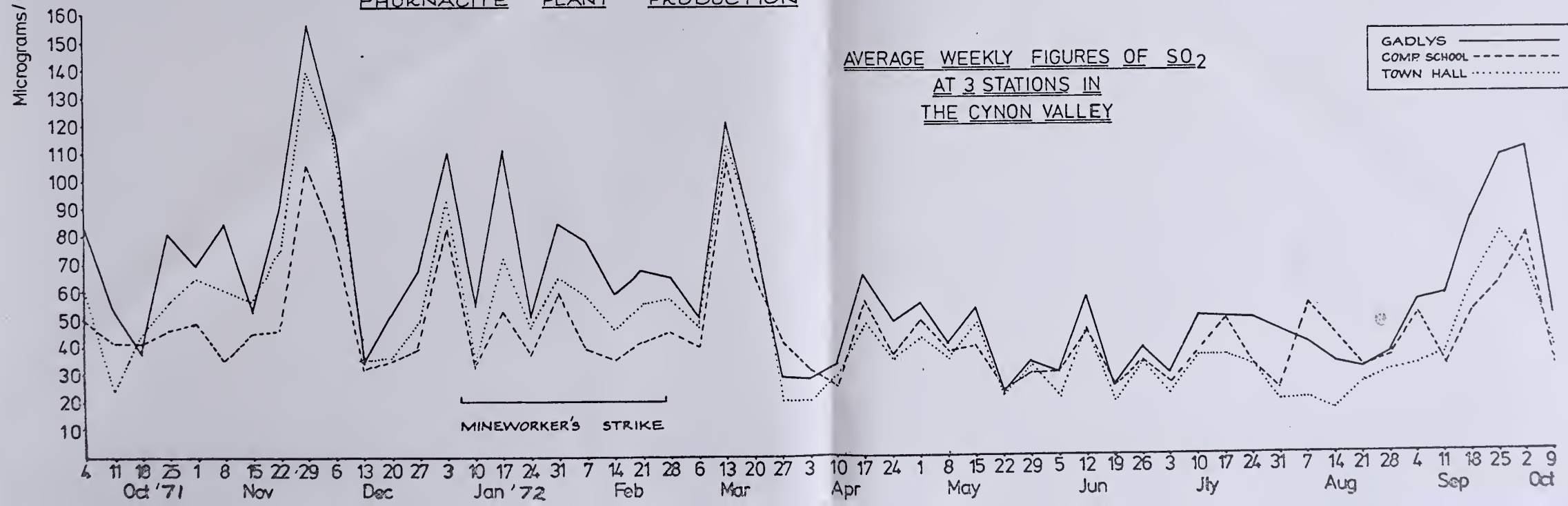
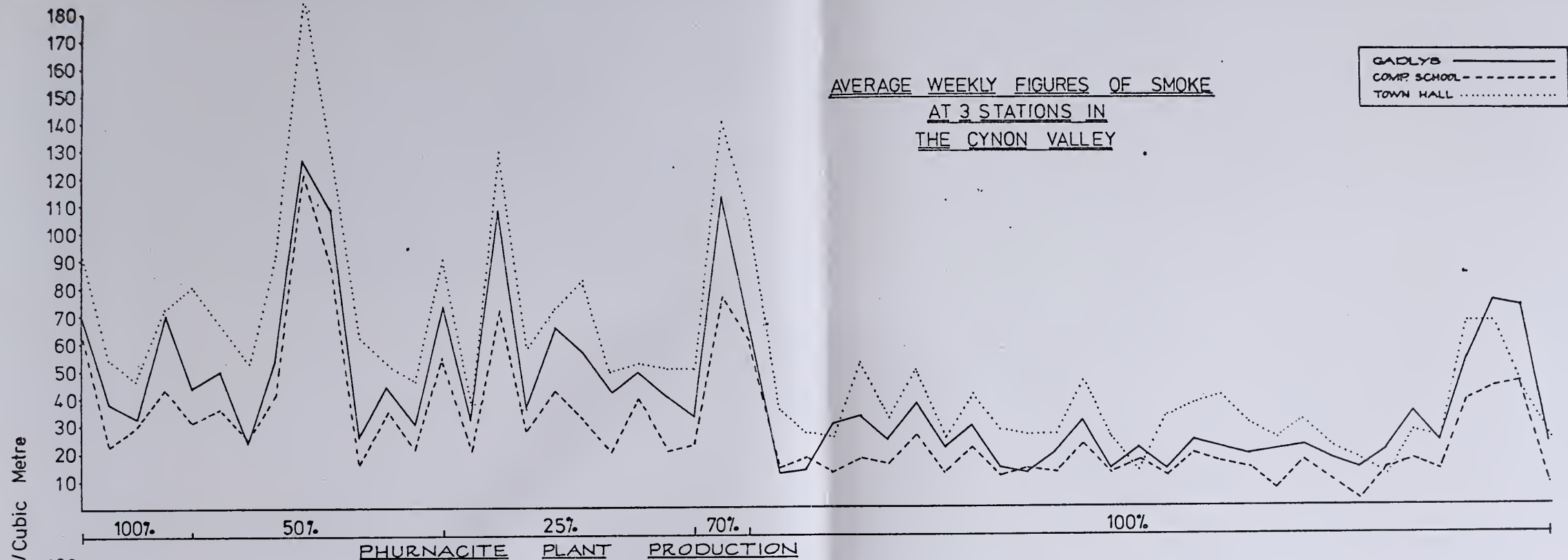
taken at Aberdare Park and at the Mountain Ash Comprehensive School and records relating to the measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide and to weather conditions were transferred to computer punch cards and sent periodically to the Medical Research Council.

On 23rd July the project was completed and a final batch of records, including the returned diaries, were sent to Professor Lawther's Department. Meanwhile, it was thought advisable to continue the measurement of sulphur dioxide and smoke and to keep weather records, transferring this information to computer punch cards in case it should be needed by the Medical Research Council.

All the data submitted will now have to be processed by the Medical Research Council and Professor Lawther's report is awaited with interest.

While the findings of the Medical Research Council cannot be anticipated, it may be of interest to record in graphic form the results of the smoke and sulphur dioxide measurements for the period October 1971 to October 1972, at the sites chosen. Although measurements were taken daily, for the sake of convenience and considerations of space, weekly averages have been used in the graphs.

Perhaps the first thing to notice is the general similarity of the graphs for the three sites, the highest figures being at the Aberdare site where, incidentally, the complaints are least. As there is a general tendency for the wind to funnel up or down a valley, such as the Cynon Valley, one would have expected - if the Phurnacite Plant were the sole or even the major contributor of smoke and sulphur dioxide - that if low figures were obtained at a site south of the Plant, then high figures could have been expected north of the Plant, or vice versa if the wind blew in the opposite direction. This does not appear to be the case for, in general, the troughs and the peaks of the separate graphs occur at the same time. It will be seen also that the graphs appear to bear little relationship to the production of the Phurnacite Plant, but vary considerably with the time of the year - high figures in the winter, low in the summer. Examination of the daily figures for sulphur dioxide and smoke reveal high peaks of pollution - reaching 250 microgrammes per cubic metre for sulphur dioxide at the Gadlys site and 380 microgrammes per cubic metre for smoke at the Town Hall, Mountain Ash. These peaks of pollution tend to last only for a day or so, and coincide with stagnant air conditions such as temperature inversions. These temporary and high concentrations are not revealed



by examination of the graphs presented because for the reasons given previously these graphs are based on weekly average figures, which lead to a blunting of the peaks. Such high concentrations are, however, important and could indeed be hazardous if the climatic conditions creating them were to persist for any length of time. Fortunately, our climate is so variable and unstable that this seldom occurs. With regard to the general level of pollution it would be reasonable to say that it is not, in the main, excessive for an industrial urban area.

Below are some comparative figures extracted from the National Survey of Air Pollution:-

Average Winter Pollution at Town and Country Sites in the Wales Region.

Type of Site	Smoke $\mu\text{g}/\text{cubic metre}$				Sulphur Dioxide $\mu\text{g}/\text{cubic metre}$			
	SOUTH WALES		NORTH WALES		SOUTH WALES		NORTH WALES	
	1968-1969	1969-1970	1968-1969	1969-1970	1968-1969	1969-1970	1968-1969	1969-1970
Town	43	34	128	97	66	55	101	81
Country	12	6	18	18	24	24	28	28

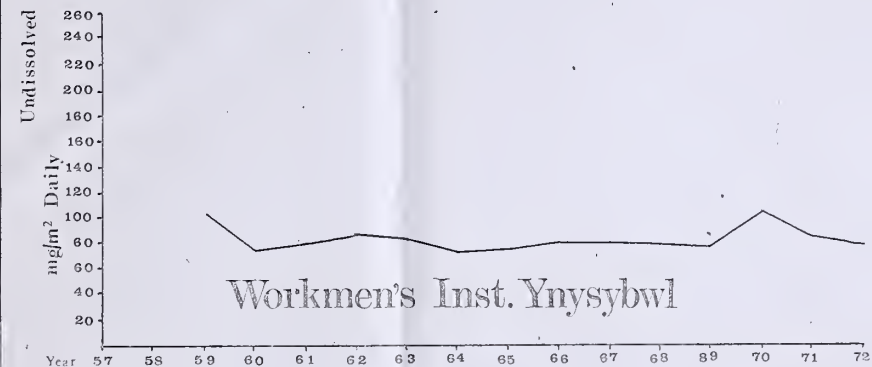
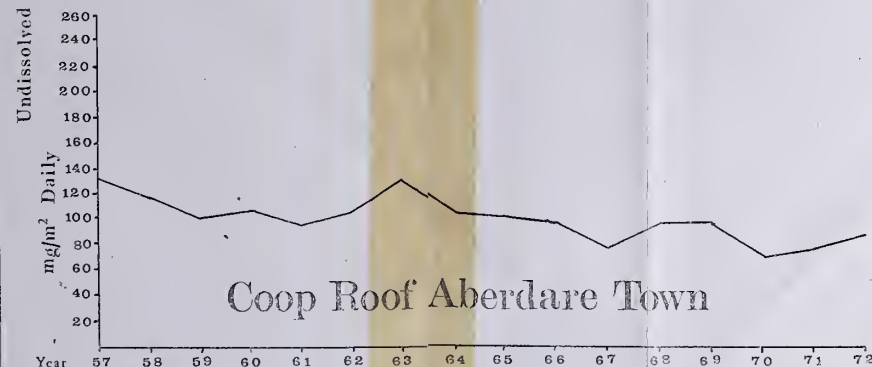
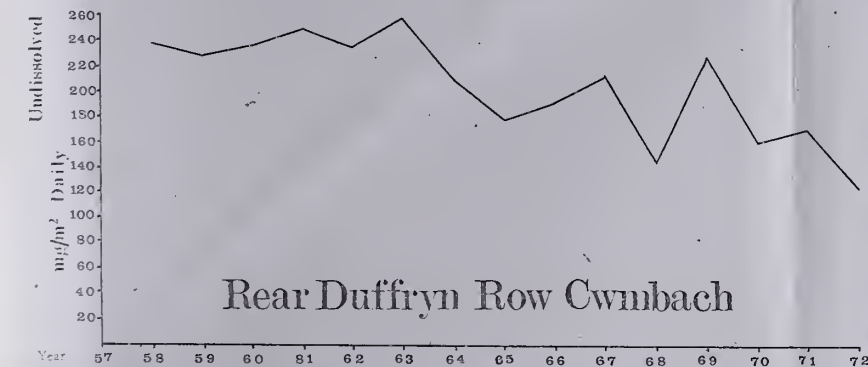
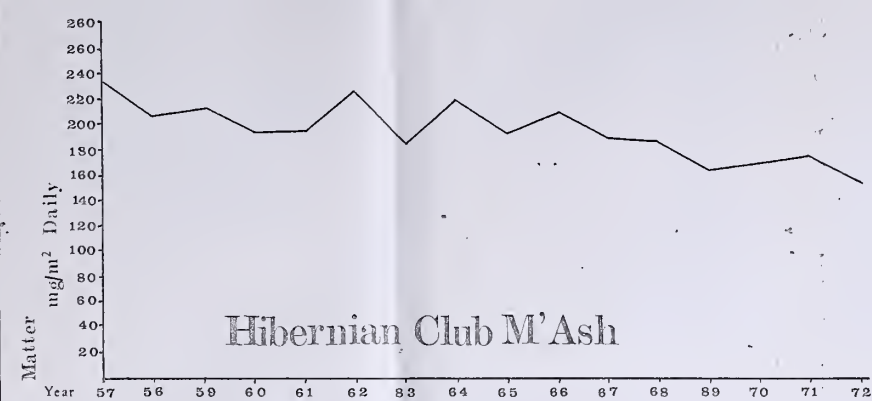
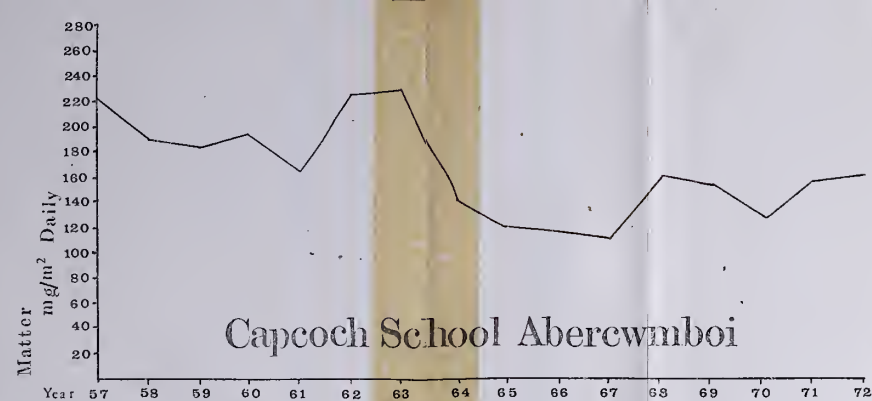
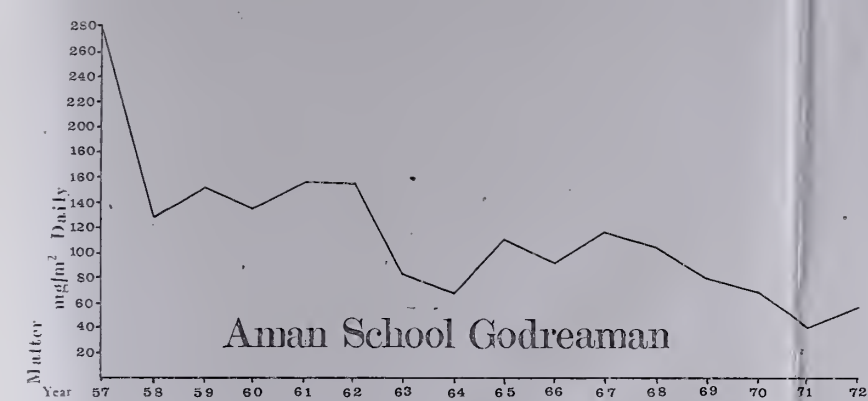
Average Winter Pollution at Three Sites in the Cynon Valley, Aberdare.

Site	Smoke $\mu\text{g}/\text{cubic metre}$	Sulphur Dioxide $\mu\text{g}/\text{cubic metre}$
	October 1971 - April 1972	October 1971 - April 1972
GADLYS SCHOOL, ABERDARE.	56	73
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, MOUNTAIN ASH.	42	51
TOWN HALL, MOUNTAIN ASH.	77	59

The graphs represent measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide at the three chosen sites, two of which are schools attended by the children involved in the project, the third being the Town Hall in the centre of Mountain Ash. The contribution that the Phurnacite Plant makes in terms of sulphur dioxide and smoke to the degree of pollution at these three sites would seem to be problematical and certainly not direct, and in this connection it should be mentioned that taking the country as a whole the main source of smoke and sulphur dioxide at ground level is the domestic fire. As indicated above, the instruments used in this project only measure sulphur dioxide and smoke; they do not measure coarse dust and grit, which have over the years occasioned a considerable volume of complaint, the majority of which is, in the eyes of the public (and rightly in my view) attributable to the Phurnacite Plant.

Dust and grit are measured by deposit gauges sited in various parts of the valley and the results from these gauges are normally shown in a table in my Annual Report. This year, in an attempt to indicate trends in the pollution of the atmosphere by dust and grit, graphs of annual averages for the total undissolved matter for the past sixteen years are presented in place of the usual table. Unfortunately, and for a variety of reasons, continuous measurements have not been possible at some of the sites, so that the graphs relate only to those sites where continuity has been maintained.

These graphs indicate that while pollution by dust and grit is still high there has been, over this period, a gradual improvement. This improvement can be attributed to a number of causes - many improvements at the Phurnacite Plant; the disappearance of the Aberaman Brickworks; the Middle Duffryn Power Station, and the Aberaman Colliery; the replacement of steam engines by diesel locomotives and the elimination of a number of other smaller sources of dust and grit emission. A slow process and a long way yet to go, but the results are encouraging.



SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Water Pollution Control Works at Abercynon, a joint project administered by the Cynon Valley Joint Sewerage Committee and consisting of representatives of Aberdare and Mountain Ash Urban District Councils and Neath and Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Councils, had by the end of the year virtually reached its final stage of completion with every prospect of its being fully operational in the early months of 1973.

The completion of two current projects - the construction of the new Sewage Works based on the activated sludge principle, and the reconstruction, reorganisation and modernisation of the sewerage system throughout the Cynon Valley - should solve the valley's sewerage problems for very many years to come. These two events, unglamorous as they may seem, are of fundamental importance to the quality of life of the inhabitants of this valley.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960 AND CARAVAN SITES ACT 1968

Whilst the number of persons occupying caravans on both the residential sites located in the area fluctuates, from month to month, the position in December of this year was as follows:

<u>SITE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CARAVANS PERMITTED</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CARAVANS ON SITE</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS</u>
Bryn Rhos Caravan Site, Trenant.	50	50	170
Pleasant View Caravan Site, Trecynon.	50	33	91

The Site Licence in respect of the Bryn Rhos Caravan Site was issued in 1961 and of the 50 original caravans on site only about eight have been replaced. The type of replacement caravans have not been new, in fact, they had previously been used by the National Coal Board to provide accommodation for miners at Ynysybwll. The caravans were, however, in good condition.

Despite this there are on site 37 caravans which are over ten years old and many of them, during this period, have housed at separate times, several different families. The result has been that the caravans have suffered neglect and vandalism. The owner of the site is rapidly becoming frustrated in his attempts to keep the caravans in a habitable condition and a serious problem is developing on this site.

The principal causes of the deterioration of standards on the site are twofold and enumerated are:

- 1). the owner's reluctance to accept on site people who own and occupy their own caravans. The tendency with such people is, commendably, that they look after their caravans and the plot on which it is parked. From the site owner's standpoint it is not as lucrative as:
- 2). owning most of the caravans on site and letting them at high rental to people who are desperately placed for accommodation. Many such people have come in from outside the Urban Area and investigations reveal, in a number of instances, that these people have failed to integrate into normal society. Any disturbance of these families at any time is likely to cause the local authority problems of re-housing.

At the present time there are 47 tenanted caravans at Bryn Rhos and 3 owner/occupied.

The situation is, fortunately, somewhat different at the Pleasant View Caravan Site, where of the 33 caravans on site at the end of the year 20 of them were owner/occupied and in very good condition. The remaining 13 caravans available for tenancy were all in good condition except three which were vacant and in the course of being repaired.

A matter which caused considerable concern during the year was the discovery of defects in the electrical wiring systems and supplies to individual caravans at both sites. The South Wales Electricity Board condemned the circuits and wiring of both sites and the local authority required both site owners to renew the electrical systems to the Board's specification.

Towards the end of the year work in this connection was almost complete at the Pleasant View Caravan Site, but nothing had been done to remedy the position at Bryn Rhos.

I have made reference in my past Reports to my views on the unsuitability of caravans as residential homes and I must reiterate here that in my opinion even the best caravan properly maintained is a poor substitute for a conventional house. How much more so is the caravan which has been neglected and vandalised.

These views are enforced after ten years of experience in dealing with the two residential sites in the area. I am further convinced that such sites provide no asset to the authority and they certainly do not ease the housing problems of the indigenous community.

Previously there have been two single caravans parked on isolated sites, each with a temporary planning consent and site licence. There now remains only one, and this presents no problems.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

During the year, work on the destruction of rats and mice was continued and two operators were employed full time by the Council.

Below will be found details of treatments carried out during the year:-

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
		NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1.	No. of properties in District	15,689	43
2.	a) No. of properties inspected following notifications	418	8
	b) No. infested by (i) Rats	355	3
	(ii) Mice	63	5
3.	a) Total no. of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	27	-
	b) No. infested by (i) Rats	14	-
	(ii) Mice	13	-

SEWER TREATMENTS

Two treatments of the sewers in the area were carried out during 1972 and consisted of baiting the manholes twice at weekly intervals using a bait made as detailed below.

85% Pinhead oatmeal
5% Sugar
0.5% Para-nitro-phenol

5% Mineral oil
5% Warfarin

First Treatment Completed in May 1972

No. of man-holes	No. Baited	FIRST BAIT			SECOND BAIT			No. of manholes not baited
		No. of good and complete takes	No. of small takes	No. of no takes	No. of good and complete takes	No. of small takes	No. of no takes	
560	526	21	1	504	1	1	524	34
Second Treatment Completed in December 1972								
638	606	70	15	521	-	-	606	32

Although not shown in the brief particulars given above, all manholes which show positive after the second treatment (i.e. still showing that bait is being taken) are re-treated until a "no take" is finally recorded.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

All refuse collected is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip, and controlled tipping, in accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, is being operated under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

Tipping is carried out under strict supervision and control. No toxic or other chemical wastes are deposited on the Council tip.

Regular visits are made by the Public Health Inspectors and Rodent Operators, and I am pleased to report that rodent infestation is no longer a serious problem.

NOISE

During the year, the Public Health Inspectors continued their work in noise control. The Department has now acquired a sophisticated noise and vibration meter which is proving a great advantage when dealing with noise problems as they arise.

I am pleased to report that the seven noise complaints received were investigated and dealt with informally without the necessity of resorting to statutory action.

	INDUSTRIAL	COMMERCIAL	DOMESTIC
No. of Complaints received	3	4	-
No. of Complaints investigated	3	4	-
No. of Nuisances confirmed	2	2	-
No. of Nuisances remedied informally	2	2	-

Noise Abatement Act 1960

No. of abatement Notices under Section 1	NIL
No. of nuisance orders under Section 1	NIL
No. of complaints under Section 2	NIL

During the year, an industrial concern operating within the area, sought our advice in relation to reducing noise levels within their factory from the standpoint of health and safety of their workers.

I am pleased to report that our recommendations secured a major reduction in noise levels within the factory premises.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There is one poultry processing plant within the area, in which pre-inspected poultry is roasted. Local inspection of the poultry is unnecessary in this case, but periodic inspections are made with regard to the provisions of the relevant hygiene regulations.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - SECTION 16

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream	3
Number registered during 1972	-
Number of premises and vehicles registered for sale of ice-cream	207
Number registered during 1972	2
TOTAL	<u>212</u>

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and during the year under review 238 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for his analysis. This number approximated to one sample per 159 numbers of the population.

In the course of the year, the samples (formal, informal and private purchasers complaints) detailed overleaf were submitted and reported upon by the Public Analyst.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Sample	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Butter	7	-
Bread	-	4
Confectionery	5	-
Coffee	4	-
Cream	9	-
Custard	6	-
Cheese	1	-
Drugs and Medicines	13	-
Fish Paste	7	-
Fish (Canned)	4	-
Fruit (Fresh)	1	-
Fruit (Canned)	12	-
Honey	2	-
Jam	12	-
Jelly	2	-
Margarine	1	-
Meat Paste	7	-
Meat (Canned)	14	1
Meat (Fresh)	-	3
Milk (Dried)	8	3
Milk (Fresh)	16	1
Pies and Pasties	-	1
Rose Hip Syrup	2	2
Rice Pudding	5	-
Sausages	10	-
Soft Drinks	23	-
Sauces (various)	23	-
Spices	13	-
Soups	3	-
Vinegar	3	-
Vegetables (Dried)	4	-
Vegetables (Canned)	5	1
TOTALS	222	16

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Below are details of foods, which were found to be unsatisfactory, together with the action taken:-

No.	Type	Food	Remarks
25a	Complaint	Chopped Pork	Complaint not substantiated by Public Analyst.
12a	Sample	Rose Hip Syrup	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
17a	Sample	Instant Low Fat Milk	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
A24	Sample	Instant Low Fat Milk	Follow up sample to No. 17a
A26	Sample	Rose Hip Syrup	Follow up sample to No. 12a
87a	Complaint	Frozen Chicken	No action taken due to uncertainty of evidence.
106a	Complaint	Bread	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
107a	Complaint	Bread	Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
108a	Complaint	Milk	No action taken.
116a	Complaint	Beef	No action taken due to insufficient evidence.
128a	Complaint	Bread	No action taken.
145a	Complaint	Boiled Ham	No action taken.
146a	Complaint	Carrots (canned)	No action taken.
185a	Complaint	Dried Milk	No action taken.
186a	Complaint	Bread	No action taken.
187a	Complaint	Meat Pasty	Proceedings instituted.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1963

Number of Sterilising Plants Licensed	1
Number of Pasteurising Plants Licensed	1
Number of dealers authorised to use the special designation "Pasteurised"	19
Number of dealers authorised to use the special designation "Sterilised"	17
Number of dealers authorised to use the special designation "Untreated"	12
Number of dealers authorised to use the special designation "U.H.T."	18

REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

The following is a summary of bacteriological examinations carried out during the year, all samples being submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Milk	No. of Samples	Unsatisfactory
PASTEURISED	38	-
STERILISED	1	-
HOMOGENISED	5	1
CHANNEL ISLAND	12	2

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI

A total of four samples of untreated milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, for examination for tubercle bacilli, and all were found to be satisfactory.

ANTIBIOTICS IN MILK

Antibiotics are much used for the treatment of mastitis in cows, and the four samples of milk submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination were found to be satisfactory.

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR BRUCELLA ABORTUS

Four samples of untreated milk were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination for brucella abortus, and all were found to be satisfactory.

UN SOUND FOOD

Consignments of food which have been voluntarily surrendered or condemned by the Public Health Inspectors as being unfit for human consumption, are despatched to the Council's refuse tip and buried under supervision. The tip is regularly inspected to ensure minimum insect and rodent infestation.

During the year miscellaneous articles of food weighing 3 tons, 9 cwts., 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., were disposed of in this way.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS

I must again express my gratitude to Dr. L.E. Coles, Public Analyst, and to Dr. R.W.S. Harvey of the Public Health Laboratory for the advice and assistance I have had from them in connection with the wide variety of chemical and bacteriological analyses and investigations which they have carried out on behalf of the Authority.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963

Number of Egg Pasteurising Plants within district	NIL
Number of Liquid Egg samples submitted to Alpha-amylese test	NIL

ICE-CREAM

At 31st December, 1972, there were 212 registered ice-cream dealers within the Urban District, three of which manufacture their own ice-cream. The majority of retailers purchase ready-made ice-cream, in hygienic containers, and maintain it at the required temperature in refrigerators provided by the wholesaler.

All the shop premises and vehicles used for the sale of ice-cream were repeatedly inspected and kept under observation; and also samples of ice-cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF ICE-CREAM

During the year nine samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory, although one sample did fall within the grade 2 range of bacteriological cleanliness.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF FOOD

During the year nineteen food samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (MARKETS, STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES)
REGULATIONS 1966

During the year a total of 31 inspections were carried out on Mobile Food vendors and food delivery vehicles. Whilst the general standard of hygiene was satisfactory, minor contraventions of the Regulations were noted, but I am pleased to report that the few defects that did exist were remedied without the necessity of resorting to statutory action.

THE FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960-63

The Public Health Inspectors continue their work of education in food hygiene, together with the inspection and supervision of all premises involved in the handling, preparation and storage of food.

During the year, 273 inspections were carried out at food premises, and I am pleased to report that informal action secured compliance with the minor contraventions met with.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1959

At 31st December, 1972, nineteen distributors and eleven dairies (not being dairy farms) were listed in the Authority's register. Under regulation 8 of the above Regulations, a distributor is required to be licensed only with the Local Authority in whose area the premises from which milk is distributed are situated.

ABERDARE MARKET

During 1972, as in previous years, the Public Health Inspectors made frequent visits to the Aberdare Market, and I am pleased to report that there has been a great improvement in the condition of these premises, especially in relation to the storage of refuse.

Whilst there is still room for improvement, the responsibility of the individual stallholders in maintaining hygienic refuse storage has, to some extent, alleviated what was a public health problem.

SUMMARY OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN AREA

Type of Shop	No.	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (W.H. Basins)	No. to which Regulation 19 applies (sinks)	No. of premises fitted with basins and sinks
GENERAL DEALER	62	61	61	61
GROCER	43	42	40	40
GREENGROCERS	8	3	3	3
CONFECTIONERS	33	33	33	33
RESTAURANTS	9	9	9	9
BUTCHERS	27	27	26	26
FISH AND CHIPS	21	15	21	15
FISHMONGERS	2	2	2	2
SUPERMARKETS	4	4	4	4
OTHERS	2	2	2	2
TOTALS	211	198	201	195

LICENSED PREMISES - HYGIENE

Work continued during 1972 in the education of publicans with special reference to hygienic preparation and handling of food. As stated in previous years, whilst the preparation of "pub food" is generally satisfactory, insufficient care is taken during the display and sale stage of such food, and it is to this end that our efforts have been concentrated.

Once again, I would like to stress the close liaison which exists between the Police and the Public Health Department with regard to public house inspections.

CINEMAS

All cinemas within the area are provided with adequate toilet arrangements. However, periodic vandalism still occurs which creates severe problems for management and staff.

During the year the Health Committee approved Certificates of Fitness with regard to first-aid, fire-fighting, etc., and electrical installations. This service is administered by the Clerk of the Council.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are two registered common lodging houses within the urban area. A number of visits to both were carried out during the year by the Public Health Inspectors, who reported that conditions were generally satisfactory and that the relevant Sections of the Public Health Act 1936 and the byelaws made under the Act were being complied with.

GENERAL HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES OF THE DISTRICT

1. Services provided by the Glamorgan County Council

- (a) Maternity and Child Welfare, Midwifery, Home Nursing, Chiropody, Distribution of Welfare Foods, Issuing of Sick Room Requisites, School Medical and Health Visiting, Cervical Cytology, Family Planning.

These services are administered by the Divisional Medical Officer:

Headquarters: Divisional Health Office, The Clinic, Rock Grounds, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2497/8.

- (b) The Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 provided for the setting up of a Social Services Department to provide an integrated service embracing the responsibilities of the former Welfare, Child Care, Mental Health and Home Help Sections. The Social Services Department is situated at: The County Offices, Llewellyn Street, Trecynon, Aberdare. Tel. Nos. Aberdare 3018 and 4350. The Social Services Department administers for the following services in this area:

- (i) Residential Care for the Aged, Mentally and Physically Handicapped, and children who cannot be cared for at home.

- (ii) Community care by Teams of Social Workers who will discern the needs of children and young persons, their families, the Mentally Ill and Mentally Handicapped, the Blind, Deaf, the Physically Handicapped and the Elderly.
- (iii) Special Services, such as the Home Help Service, Fostering Service, Adoption Services, Care of unmarried Mothers, Day Nurseries and Child Minders.
- (iv) The protection of property of persons in Homes or Hospitals, the handling of the affairs of persons incapable of managing matters for themselves.
- (v) Emergency Services in the form of Temporary Accommodation of Homeless Families and special schemes to deal with the effects of fire and flood and other eventualities.

(c) Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Station for this area is situated at Hawthorn, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, Glam. Tel. No. Pontypridd 3973.

(d) Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages

This area comes under the Pontypridd District and the Superintendent's Office is at Courthouse Street, Pontypridd. Tel. No. Pontypridd 3122.

The local Registrar's Office is at 21 Cardiff Street, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2008..

2. Probation Officers

The address of the Principal Probation Officer is:- St. Catherine's Chamber, Mill Street, Pontypridd. Tel. No. Pontypridd 2157.

The Youth Employment Officer for this area is:- Mr. W.V. McCarthy, Youth Employment Bureau, Wind Street, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2795.

3. Hospital Services provided by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board

Hospital facilities for this area are administered by the Merthyr and Aberdare Hospital Management Committee. The office of the Committee is at St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. Tel. No. Merthyr 3401.

The following is a list of the hospitals and clinics used by the residents of the area:-

Aberdare General Hospital, Abernant. Tel. No. Aberdare 2411
 Fedw Hir Convalescent Hospital, Llwydcoed, Aberdare.
 Tel. No. Aberdare 2612
 Mountain Ash General Hospital, Caegarw, Mountain Ash.
 Tel. No. Mountain Ash 2212
 Mardy Isolation Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. (For infectious diseases)
 Tel. No. Merthyr Tydfil 3581
 St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. Tel. No. Merthyr 3401
 Merthyr General Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil. Tel. No. Merthyr 3651
 Chest Clinic at Aberdare General Hospital, Abernant, Aberdare.
 Tel. No. 2411
 (This clinic is available on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.)

4. Services provided by Government Departments

(a) Ministry of Central Social Security (Wales), Central Office
 (Wales), Government Buildings, St. Agnes Road, Gabalfa, Cardiff.
 Tel. No. Cardiff 62131

(b) Pneumoconiosis Medical Panel

The Office is situated at:
 East Entrance, Prudential Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff.
 Tel. No. Cardiff 26161

(c) Department of Health and Social Security

The local office for supplementary benefits for this district is at:

Glanynys, Cwmbach Road, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2343

The local office for Pensions and National Insurance is at:
4 Victoria Square, Aberdare. Tel. No. Aberdare 2541

(d) Ministry of Labour and National Service

Employment Exchange, Monk Street, Aberdare.
Tel. No. Aberdare 2383

5. General Practitioner Service

This service is provided by the
Glamorgan Executive Council,
(National Health Council), Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff.
Tel. No. Cardiff 26216

MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

All the meals provided for the Meals on Wheels service are prepared at St. Mary's Social Centre, and high standards are set for quality and variety. The provision of a diet suitable for diabetics has satisfied the increasing demand for special meals.

During the year ended 31st December, 1972, 49609 meals were delivered, an increase of 1784 over last year's deliveries. Three meals per week were supplied to an average of 362 recipients and where necessary, in emergencies a maximum of five meals per week was provided.

This year it was possible to meet the request made by the Glamorgan County Council to provide meals for handicapped persons under pensionable age. Ten such persons are now receiving regular deliveries, costs incurred being recoverable from the County Council.

When deliveries of new vans are made in the coming year it will be possible to implement the Council's decision to increase the maximum number of meals supplied to any qualified person, from three to five per week, whilst at the same reducing considerably the waiting list for such services.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

(a) Porthcawl Rest

This year 42 tickets were distributed through the 14 Old Age Pensioners Branches in the area on the understanding that all old people resident in the area were eligible for a ticket. In addition the Council acted as "agent" to enable other old people to purchase tickets for themselves, as the "Rest" does not supply tickets to individuals.

(b) Welsh Old People's Week

This event was held between 1st and 7th October, 1972. A sum of £500 was distributed between the 14 O.A.P. Branches of the area to help them provide a function which all old people in their area could attend.

(c) Alexandra Rose Day

This event was held again on 23/24th June, 1972, and a collection of £327.88 was realised. The expenditure incurred in promoting the event was £49.73, which was met by the Aberdare Urban District Council.

ST. MARY'S SOCIAL CENTRE

The many and varied social activities at the Centre continue to be well attended and appreciated. An innovation this year has been the evening dances held on special occasions such as Easter, Whitsun and Christmas, when a small charge is levied to pay for a band and various spot prizes. Other activities include a weekly dance to records, whist drives, concerts and film shows. The carpentry and quilting classes continue to be held weekly and in October a class was started in basket work and tray making.

The number of meals produced at the Centre increased from 89,457 in 1971 to 96,152; an increase of 6,695 meals. Of these, 43,727 were served at the Centre, 49,609 delivered by the Council's Meals on Wheels service, and 2,816 supplied to the Meals on Wheels service of the Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 21 (1)(b)

HOMELESS FAMILIES - INTERMEDIATE ACCOMMODATION

At the end of the year it appeared that efforts to save this scheme were likely to be unsuccessful, and that in all probability this worthwhile project, which had achieved much in a short time, would have to come to an end.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Below are details of habitable dwelling houses in the area at 31st December, 1972:-

Pre-War private houses	9,690
Pre-War local authority houses (erected)	576
Pre-War local authority miscellaneous houses (owned)	32
	<hr/>
	10,298
Post-War private houses (1,230) and police houses (30)	1,260
Post-War local authority houses (erected)	2,804
Post-War local authority miscellaneous houses (owned)	5
	<hr/>
	14,367
	<hr/>

During 1972, twenty-six houses were erected by private enterprise and forty-four houses were demolished or closed as a result of individual demolition and closing orders and other causes.

Details of local authority houses are as follows:-

District	Pre (1939) War Dwellings	Post 1939 Dwellings	Total
TREWAUN	18	-	18
TRENANT	132	-	132
TREFELIN	140	-	140
TRENEOL	72	-	72
PENYWAUN	24	1,017	1,041
LLWYDCOED	106	94	200
ABERNANT	40	48	88
CWMBACH	44	714	758
TY FRY	-	120	120
HEOL-Y-MYNYDD	-	72	72
CWMDARE	-	357	357
ABERAMAN	-	40	40
HIRWAUN	-	342	342
MISCELLANEOUS	32	5	37
	608	2,809	3,417

Types of dwellings with number of bedrooms:-

Type of Dwelling	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Dwellings
B.I.S.F. STEEL DWELLINGS	3	96
TRADITIONAL HOUSES	4	55
TRADITIONAL HOUSES	3	1,933
TRADITIONAL HOUSES	2	218
FLATS	3	96
FLATS	2	561
FLATS	1	312
BUNGALOWS	1	30
MAISONNETTES	3	33
BEDSITTERS	-	42
MISCELLANEOUS	-	37
TWO GENERATION HOUSES	4	4
TOTAL		3,417

As at 31st December, 1972, there was a total of 405 applicants on the Council's housing list, as compared with 376 at December 1971. Contributory factors to the increase in the waiting list are the high prices of new dwellings, the continuing need to house persons from slum clearance, etc., and the smaller turnover of casual vacancies, as there are no new Council dwellings being erected at the present time.

Set out below is a table indicating the number of applicants from each ward and from areas outside the Aberdare Urban District:-

WARD	SUB-TENANTS	TENANTS	TOTAL
1	42	51	93
2	5	40	45
3	10	28	38
4	25	39	64
5	8	40	48
TOTAL	90	198	288
OUTSIDE AREA APPLICANTS			117
GRAND TOTAL			405

HOUSING REPAIRS

I have to report, similar to previous years, that housing repairs during the year have not been without their unsolved problems of getting landlords to undertake repairs. Continued efforts by the Public Health Inspectors to improve the conditions of the older properties have resulted in a substantial number of houses being attended to, although it has been necessary to resort to formal action in some cases.

The high cost of labour and materials continue to make the task of enforcing housing repairs, especially in the case of the lower rented properties, a most difficult one to deal with.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during 1972	
a)	Total no. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts and Public Health Acts	762
b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	1465
c)	No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state of danger or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation	38
d)	No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	565
2.	Remedy of defects during 1972 without service of formal notices	522
3.	Proceedings under Section 9, Housing Act 1957	
a)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
b)	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	1
	(i) By owner	1
	(ii) By local authority in default of owner	-

4.	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts	
a)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs:-	
	Public Health Act 1936 - Section 58	1
	Section 44	1
	Section 39	5
	Section 36	-
	Section 45	2
	Section 259	1
	Section 93	12
	Section 47	16
	Section 56	1
	Public Health Act 1961 - Section 24	2
	Section 27	1
	Section 18	1
		<u>43</u>
b)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	35
5.	Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act 1957	37
6.	Proceedings under Section 18, Housing Act 1957	-

ACTION ON HOUSES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION (HOUSING ACT 1957)

During 1972:-	Demolition Orders served	22
	Closing Orders served	15
	Closing Orders served substituted by Demolition Orders	6
	Undertakings accepted	-
	Schemes accepted	-

Occupants from 26 unfit properties have been rehoused by the local authority during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1958 AND
HOUSE AND HOUSE PURCHASE ACT 1959

There appears to have been a marked increase in the number of applications made for improvement grants. During the year 783 preliminary applications were received in my department as compared with 507 in the previous year. The following information is recorded in respect of these applications.

46 No. Withdrawn or abandoned.

44 No. Refused sufficient "life".

24 No. Refused, as amenities already existing at premises.

9 No. Refused - no room to extend.

10 No. Refused - works required not qualify for grant aid.

10 No. Refused - would not provide satisfactory accommodation after improvement.

While many applications were still in the process of determination at the end of the year, 292 applications were approved.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Standard	29	£12,229
Discretionary	263	£355,937
	<u>292</u>	<u>£368,166</u>

APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1972 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ABERDARE IN THE COUNTY OF GLAMORGAN.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	NO. ON REGI- STER (2)	NUMBER OF		
		INSPEC- TIONS (3)	WRITTEN NOTICES (4)	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	8	14	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	89	47	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	3	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE				CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED
	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERRED TO H.M. FACTORY INSPECTOR	BY H.M. FACTORY INSPECTOR	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
a. Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against act (not including offences relating to outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

NATURE OF WORK (1)	SECTION 133			SECTION 134		
	NO. OF OUT- WORKERS IN AUGUST LIST REQUIRED BY SECTION 133(1)(c)	NO. OF CASES OF DE- FAULT IN SENDING LISTS TO THE COUNCIL	NO. OF PROSEC- UTIONS FOR FAILURE TO SUPPLY LISTS	NO. OF INSTAN- CES OF WORK IN UNWHOLE- SOME PREMISES	NOTICES SERVED	PROSEC- UTIONS
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel	Making etc... ..	-	-	-	-	-
	Cleaning and Washing ..	-	-	-	-	-

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